

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04992 180621Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4992

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CD, US, SA
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF STATE 166492

1. DURING JULY 16 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD, AMBASSADOR AND DCM RAISED SUBJECT OF MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD. SAUD REPLIED THAT SAG ALSO HAD INFORMATION THAT SITUATION HAD BECOME SERIOUS. HE CONFIRMED THAT SAG IS QUITE CONCERNED OVER LIBYAY ACTION IN SUPPORTING THE REBELS.

2. DCM ASKED IF FACT THAT LIBYA IS ALSO AN ARAB COUNTRY WOULD MODIFY SAG VIEWS. SAUD REPLIED THAT TO EXTENT THAT QUADAFI WAS SUPPORTING THE REBELS AGAINST LEGITIMATE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HE COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN ARAB.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SAG WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE CHAD GOVERNMENT BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT. IF THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WERE TAKEN BY THE GOVT. OF FRANCE OR OF THE UNITED STATES, SAG WOULD BE PLEASED AND WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE.

4. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE USG HAS DELIVERED FOLLOWING ITEMS OF U.S. ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO
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SAG WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER TO CHAD:

A. 81 LIGHT AND MEDIUM TANKS. WE HAVE LOCATED 51 OF THESE THAT ARE DISPOSED AS FOLLOWS: 34 M-41 TANKS IN KHAMIS MUSHAYT IN SEMI-ACTIVE CONDITION AND 17 M-47 TANKS IN STORAGE AT TABUK.

B. IN ADDITION USG HAS RECENTLY DELIVERED SIX M60A1
TANKS NOW AT TABUK AND EIGHT M113A1
APC'S AT TABUK OR TAIF.

C. SAG HAS TWO SQUADRONS OF C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.
THE TWO SQUADRONS HAVE 24 C-130H TRANSPORTS AND FOUR
KC-130H TANKERS FOR AERIAL REFUELING.

D. THE SAUDI AIR FORCE HAS A TOTAL OF 43 AUGUSTA-BELL
HELICOPTERS MANUFACTURED IN ITALY UNDER LICENSE BY BELL
HELICOPTER OF DALLAS. THEY ALSO HAVE TWO VIP CONFIGURED
SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS. THE AUGUSTA-BELLS INCLUDE ONE
AB 204, EIGHT AB 205'S, 24 AB 206'S, AND TEN AB 212'S.

5. IN ADDITION TO U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT, THE SAG HAS
RECEIVED IN EXCESS OF 250 FRENCH AMX ARMORED VEHICLES
INCLUDING TANKS AND APC'S. WE BELIEVE THAT THE JIDDA
ORDNANCE DEPOT NOW HAS IN STORAGE 42 AMX-30 MBT'S,
20 AMX-30 TANK RETRIEVERS, AND 50 AMX-10 APC'S AWAITING
DISTRIBUTION. IF THE GOF TAKES THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING
MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CHAD, THE AMX VEHICLES MIGHT BE
MORE APPROPRIATE THAN U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT.
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